

Friday, May 20, 2005

## **Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker Honored with Confluence Award**



(Left to Right) Ed Carter, Chairman of the National Safe Boating Council and Boating Law Administrator from Tennessee; Mark Rosenker, NTSB; Mike Sciulla, Vice President Government Affairs, BoatUS

Acting Chairman Mark Rosenker was honored at a Congressional reception Tuesday, May 17, where he was presented with the National Safe Boating Council's Confluence Award. Other recipients included Senators Trent Lott (R-MS) and Herb Kohl (D-WI), along with Congressmen Clay Shaw (R-FL), Leonard Boswell (D-IA), Gene Taylor (D-MS), Rob Simmons (R-CT), and Paul Ryan (D-WI).

Confluence awards are intended to recognize Members of Congress and other senior government officials who have worked to better the resources and vision of safe recreational boating opportunities on America's waterways. Mr. Rosenker is the first non-Congressional recipient of the award.

## **Board Meeting for FedEx Cargo Accident in Memphis, Tennessee**

On Tuesday, May 17, the National Transportation Safety Board reviewed the December 18, 2003 accident involving Federal Express Corporation flight 647, which crashed while landing at Memphis International Airport. Following the crash, the right main landing gear of the Boeing MD 10-10F collapsed, and there was a post-crash fire. Two crewmen and five nonrevenue FedEx pilots were aboard the airplane. The first officer and one nonrevenue pilot received minor injuries during the evacuation.

The Board determined the probable cause of this accident was the first officer's failure to properly apply crosswind landing techniques to align the airplane with the runway centerline and to properly arrest the airplane's descent rate before touchdown. Additionally, the captain's failure to adequately monitor the first officer's performance and command or initiate corrective action during the final approach and landing contributed to the accident.

As a result, the Safety Board made four recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration. A synopsis of the full accident investigation report, including findings, probable cause and safety recommendations, can be found on the "Publications" page of the NTSB website.

## **Chairman-Designate Advocates for Board's Mission, Goals**

On Thursday, May 5, Chairman-designate Ellen Engleman Conners addressed the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators (ISASI) and the ISASI International Council at their annual meeting, conducted this year at the NTSB Academy. Engleman Conners highlighted the Board staff's Safety With a Team (SWAT) accomplishments, praised ISASI membership for their dedication to aviation safety, and advocated for greater emphasis on addressing the impact human fatigue factors have on safety across all modes of transportation. Special thanks are owed to the entire NTSB Academy staff for providing a successful experience to ISASI members and guests.



In addressing the 2005 Government/Industry Meeting of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) on May 9, Chairman-designate Engleman Conners emphasized the Board's goals of addressing electronic data recording and electronic stability control on automobiles. Engleman Conners stressed the importance of collecting and sharing data in a standardized format that will enable the implementation of data based policy decisions and safety recommendations. She recognized that questions of privacy exist concerning the use of the data and stated her belief that these can be appropriately addressed.

On May 12 the Indiana Leadership Forum was among a number of public service organizations that received first-hand advocacy efforts from Chairman-designate Engleman Conners throughout the week. Engleman Conners encouraged the attendees to use their experience and knowledge gained in visiting the nation's capital to advocate for transportation safety measures in their state legislatures; measures aimed at combating hard-core drunk driving, promoting use of personal flotation devices in marine safety, and enhancing safety belt legislation. Special thanks to RE-30's Jim Wildey, RE-40's Al Reitan and SR-30's Steve Blackistone and Danielle Roeber for their presentations in support of the Board's advocacy efforts.





## NTSB Hits New Heights, Training 377 In 30 Days at Academy

From April 19 to May 19, the Academy delivered nine courses to 377 transportation and emergency response professionals from around the world. Participants included those from the U.S., Argentina, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Haiti, Israel, New Zealand, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

**Cognitive Interviewing for Accident Investigators** on April 19-20 was attended by 58 people; 26 of those stayed on for **Investigating Human Fatigue Factors** on April 21-22, which had a total enrollment of 70. Both of the above courses were held twice before at the Academy and will be offered again November 15-18, 2005.

Cognitive Interviewing:

"As an accident investigator, methods learned in this course will be applied over the spectrum of my duties." – A participant from the Bahamas Flight Standards Inspectorate Civil Aviation

Human Fatigue:

"Most information I've ever obtained from a two-day course. Very pertinent to my work." – A participant from Transport Canada



*Lisa Stark (ABC News), Dennis Powell (ABC News), Tom Costello (NBC News), and Alan Levin (USA Today) help prepare course participants for their role with the media following a major aviation disaster*

**Managing Communications During an Aircraft Disaster**, led by Lauren Peduzzi (PA) and co-sponsored with Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) and the Regional Airline Association (RAA), was attended by 90 on April 27-28.

Acting Chairman Mark V. Rosenker addressed the group, emphasizing the unique role the Academy plays in the aviation industry. He noted that this course provides the only forum where representatives from airlines and airports can come together to discuss the communication challenges that immediately follow an aircraft accident.

Open discussions during the two-day course helped to clarify many questions the groups had regarding who should provide certain information in the wake of a major event.

"Very useful. More importantly, it showed many areas where we can improve our planning." – A participant from AirTran Airways

On April 29, Erik Grosf (TDA) delivered a new course, **Transportation Disaster Response – Airports**, which provided strategies and solutions for the numerous challenges faced by airports and airlines in the first 12 hours following a major passenger aircraft accident. This course was delivered to 40 participants from eight countries.

"Excellent course. Confirmed that we are on the right track and provided new ideas to incorporate into our response plan." – A participant from Reno/Tahoe International Airport

Paul Sledzik (TDA) led the first **Mass Fatality Incidents for Medicolegal Professionals** course (May 9 – 12). A total of 34 medical examiners, coroners, medicolegal investigators, and other forensic scientists attended. The program combined interactive instruction with practical exercises to ensure that participants would leave better prepared to respond to a mass fatality transportation accident.



*Participants practice photodocumentation techniques at a simulated accident site*

"The course was outstanding. The portable morgue was a great way to demonstrate the layout and general principles in handling a mass fatality incident." – A participant from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Office of the Medical Examiner

On May 16 – 19, the Academy presented four one-day photography courses: **Technical Photography, Advanced Accident Site Photography, Photodocumentation of Traumatic Injuries and Digital Image Processing**. Most of the participants attended all four courses – the **Photodocumentation Series**.

The Academy would like to recognize and thank those from the NTSB staff that contributed to the success of these courses: Malcolm Brenner, Dennis Collins, Jason Fedok, Brian Fiffick, Erik Grosf, Jeff Guzzetti, Steve Jenner, David Mayer, Lauren Peduzzi, Jana Price, and Paul Sledzik.



*Employing standard protocols and procedures, participants practiced using equipment in the portable morgue set up in the Academy's main lab.*



## NTSB Launches to Liberty, Missouri

Last week Monday, May 9, began with a launch to an accident in Liberty, MO where a school bus collided with 2 other vehicles at an intersection. About half of the 53 grade-school students on board the 84-passenger Thomas Built school bus were injured. The sole occupants of the Lincoln LS and the GMC pickup truck that were struck by the school bus were fatally injured.

The Office of Highway Safety sent its West Team to investigate this accident including Gary Van Etten as the IIC, Mark Bagnard, Ron Kaminski, Pete Kotowski, Paula Sind-Prunier, Larry Yohe, George Black, and Robert Accetta.



## Development of a NTSB-Like Agency in Lithuania?

*On May 5, 2005 Bruce Magladry and Dwight Foster (OHS) and Ron Hynes (RPH) met with 3 members of Lithuanian Ministry of Transport and Communications concerning development of an NTSB-like agency in Lithuanian for the highway and rail modes.*



## NTSB Welcomes 3 New Employees

**Kathleen Curry**, Writer/Editor, Office of Railroad, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety. Prior to coming to the Safety Board, she was a writer/editor for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Ms. Curry has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Sociology from the University of Maine, a Masters in Science in Justice Studies from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Delaware.



**Sarah Hirsch**, Office Automation Clerk (Temp Student), joined the Office of Administration - Acquisition Division. She is a student at Wake Forest University.



**Cherish Willis**, Editorial Assistant, Office of Aviation Safety - Writing and Editing Division. She is a senior and majoring in English at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia.

## Update on Most Wanted Safety Recommendations

- Member Hersman, accompanied by Kevin Quinlan, testified on May 19 in Wisconsin in support of legislation on primary enforcement of the seatbelt law.